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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/685,354

Applicant(s)

CHEN, MICHAEL

Examiner

Jason Thomas

Art Unit

2423

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 4, 19 and 59 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 4 recites: "...the portion and the second portion..." but appears that the claim should recite, "...the first portion and the second portion...".

Claims 19 and 59 recite: "An apparatus... with at least a second image:" but appears to be missing "comprising".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips et al., U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0150751 A1 (hereinafter Phillips) in view of Gordon et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,634,788 B2 (hereinafter Gordon).

Regarding claim 1: Phillips discloses a method for preparing at least a first image for integration with at least a second image, comprising: receiving at least the first image 530; and forming a first compressed image from a portion of a first image area, thereby preparing the first compressed image for integration with at least the

second image (see [fig. 5], [fig. 7], [118], [119], [133], [134] for using encoder 515 to compress an image in an MPEG-2 format such that portions of the image can be manipulated to prepare the image for integration with a second image using compositing device 522) but does not clearly teach the manner in which the images are compressed (i.e. representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion); or teach where the first image comprises an analog image and converting the analog image to a digital image.

Gordon teaches sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers (see [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31]) and receiving an image from a storage location 108 and converting said image from an analog format to a digital format to prepare the image for integration (see [fig. 1], [col. 5, ll. 1-29]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of processing images by converting any analog images to a digital format and using sliced based encoding, as taught by Gordon, in order to ensure that the images are in a format that can be efficiently manipulated for integration with another image.

Regarding claim 19: Phillips discloses an apparatus for preparing at least a first image for integration with at least a second image: an input for receiving at least the first image (see [119] for receiving an image at head end 510); and an encoder for forming a first compressed image from a portion of a first image area, thereby

preparing the first compressed image for integration with at least the second image (see [fig. 5], [fig. 7], [118], [119], [133], [134] for encoder 515 which is used to compress an image in an MPEG-2 format such that portions of the image can be manipulated to prepare the image for integration with a second image using compositing device 522) but does not clearly teach the manner in which the images are compressed (i.e. representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion); or teach where the first image comprises an analog image and converting the analog image to a digital image.

Gordon teaches sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers (see [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31]) and receiving an image from a storage location 108 and converting said image from an analog format to a digital format to prepare the image for integration (see [fig. 1], [col. 5, ll. 1-29]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of processing images by converting any analog images to a digital format and using sliced based encoding, as taught by Gordon, in order to ensure that the images are in a format that can be efficiently manipulated for integration with another image.

Regarding claim 37: Phillips discloses a system for preparing at least a first image, wherein the first image is a digital image, for integration with at least a second image, comprising: a receiver for receiving at least the first image (see [119]

for headend 510 which receives images in the form of video signals); and at least a first encoder for forming a first compressed image from a portion of a first image area, thereby preparing the first compressed image for integration with the second image (see [fig. 5], [fig. 7], [118], [119], [133], [134] for encoder 515 which is used to compress an image in an MPEG-2 format such that portions of the image can be manipulated to prepare the image for integration with a second image using compositing device 522) but does not clearly teach the manner in which the images are compressed (i.e. representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion).

Gordon teaches sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers (see [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of processing images by using sliced based encoding, as taught by Gordon, in order to ensure that the images are in a format that can be efficiently manipulated for integration with another image.

Regarding claim 55: Philips discloses a method for integrating at least a first image, wherein the first image comprises a digital image, with at least a second image, wherein the second image comprises a digital image, comprising: forming a first compressed image from a portion of a first image area (see [fig. 5], [fig. 7], [118], [119], [133], [134] for encoder 515 which is used to compress an image in an MPEG-2 format such that portions of the image can be manipulated to prepare the image

for integration with a second image using compositing device 522); and combining the first compressed image with the second image to form an integrated image using compositing device 522; but does not clearly teach the manner in which the images are compressed (i.e. representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion).

Gordon teaches sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers (see [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of processing images by using sliced based encoding, as taught by Gordon, in order to ensure that the images are in a format that can be efficiently manipulated for integration with another image.

Regarding claim 59: Phillips discloses an apparatus for integrating at least a first image and at least a second image: an encoder for forming a first compressed image from a portion restricted to a first region of a first image area (see [fig. 5], [fig. 7], [118], [119], [133], [134] for encoder 515 which is used to compress an image in an MPEG-2 format such that portions of the image can be manipulated to prepare the image for integration with a second image using compositing device 522); and a combiner for combining the first compressed image and the second image to form an integrated image using compositing device 522; but does not clearly teach the manner in which the images are compressed (i.e. representing at least one segment

of the first image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion).

Gordon teaches sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers (see [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of processing images by using sliced based encoding, as taught by Gordon, in order to ensure that the images are in a format that can be efficiently manipulated for integration with another image.

Regarding claim 63: Phillips discloses a system for integrating at least a first image and at least a second image, comprising: at least a first encoder for receiving the first image and forming a first compressed image from a portion restricted to a first region of a first image area (see [fig. 5], [fig. 7], [118], [119], [133], [134] for encoder 515 which is used to compress an image in an MPEG-2 format such that portions of the image can be manipulated to prepare the image for integration with a second image using compositing device 522); and a combiner for combining the first compressed image with the second image to form an integrated image using compositing device 522; but does not clearly teach the manner in which the images are compressed (i.e. representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion).

Gordon teaches sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop

identifiers (see [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of processing images by using sliced based encoding, as taught by Gordon, in order to ensure that the images are in a format that can be efficiently manipulated for integration with another image.

Regarding claim 2: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising preparing at least the second image for integration with at least the first image by: receiving at least the second image (see Phillips [fig. 5, item 532]), and where the first image comprises an analog image, converting the analog image to a second digital image (see Gordon [col. 5, ll. 1-29] for converting to digital); and forming a second compressed image (see Phillips [fig. 5, item 522] for a compositing device).

Regarding claim 3: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second compressed image is formed from restricted to a second portion of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion, thereby preparing the second compressed image for integration with the first compressed image (see Phillips [fig. 5, item 532] for a second image], see also Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for teaching sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers).

Regarding claim 4: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the first portion and the second portion are different portions within the same image area (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which provides for a number of configurations; see also Phillips [fig. 5, item 522], [fig. 7] for compositing signals; see also [132] for a plurality of image configurations).

Regarding claim 5: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the portion and the second region portion are different portions within different image areas (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which provides for a number of configurations; see also Phillips [fig. 5, item 522], [fig. 7] for compositing signals; see also [132] for a plurality of image configurations).

Regarding claim 6: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the portion comprises one or more slices of the first image (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 7: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second portion comprises one or more slices of the second image (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 8: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising combining the first compressed image and the second compressed image by interleaving the portion and the second portion (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which provides for

interleaving images together; see also Phillip [fig. 5, item 522] for compositing the images which reads on interleaving).

Regarding claim 9: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein at least one of the first image or the second image includes at least one frame (see Phillips [6] where frames are inherent to video).

Regarding claim 10: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the step of forming the first compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion of the frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 11: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the step of forming the second compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion of the frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 12: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach, wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the step of forming

the first compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the first image within the region portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the region portion of a different frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 13: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and step of forming the second compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the second image within the second portion of a different frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 14: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image includes a still image, and the second image includes a motion video image, a still image, or a combination of both (see Gordon [fig. 5] where the first image can be a menu guide, a still image, and the second image is a video).

Regarding claim 15: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is a barker (see Gordon [col. 11, ll. 18-30] for a barker).

Regarding claim 16: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide (see Gordon [col. 11, ll. 18-30] for an IPG).

Regarding claim 17: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein at least the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber (see Gordon [col. 4, ll. 13-23] for providing such integrated video for a VOD subscriber which reads on content on demand).

Regarding claim 18: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image (see Phillips [fig. 5, item 522] for integrating a first and second compressed image).

Regarding claim 20: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising an input for receiving at least the second image, wherein the encoder forms a second compressed image (see Phillip [fig. 5, items 510, 515 and 532] for receiving and encoding a second compressed image).

Regarding claim 21: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second compressed image is formed from a second portion of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion, thereby preparing the second compressed image for integration with the first compressed image (see Phillips [fig. 5, item 532] for a second image], see also Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for teaching sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers).

Regarding claim 22: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the portion and the second region portion are different regions within the same image area (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which provides for a number of configurations; see also Phillips [fig. 5, item 522], [fig. 7] for compositing signals; see also [132] for a plurality of image configurations).

Regarding claim 23: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the portion and the second region portion are different regions within different image areas (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which provides for a number of configurations; see also Phillips [fig. 5, item 522], [fig. 7] for compositing signals; see also [132] for a plurality of image configurations).

Regarding claim 24: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is logically or physically divided into slices (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 25: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image is logically or physically divided into slices (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 26: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second compressed image by interleaving first image includes at least one frame (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which provides for interleaving

images together; see also Phillip [fig. 5, item 522] for compositing the images which reads on interleaving).

Regarding claim 27: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein one or more of the first image or the second image includes at least one frame (see Phillips [6] where frames are inherent to video).

Regarding claim 28: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the region portion of the frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 29: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion of the frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 30: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the encoder forms the

first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the region portion of a different frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 31: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and the encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the second image within the second region portion of a different frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 32: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is a motion video image, and the second image is a still image, a motion video image, or a combination of both (see Gordon [fig. 5] where the first image can be a menu guide, a still image, and the second image is a video).

Regarding claim 33: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is a barker (see Gordon [col. 11, ll. 18-30] for a barker).

Regarding claim 34: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide (see Gordon [col. 11, ll. 18-30] for an IPG).

Regarding claim 35: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein at least the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber (see Gordon [col. 4, ll. 13-23] for providing such integrated video for a VOD subscriber which reads on content on demand).

Regarding claim 36: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image by interleaving the first image with the second image (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which provides for interleaving images together; see also Phillip [fig. 5, item 522] for compositing the images which reads on interleaving).

Regarding claim 38: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising: a receiver for receiving at least a second image (see Phillips [fig. 5, items 510 and 515] for receiving and a second encoder for forming a second compressed image, thereby preparing the second image for integration with the first image (see Gordon [fig. 2]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify server 510 by providing more than one encoder, as taught by Gordon, in order to allow each

independent signal to have a dedicated encoder to increase the throughput and reduce system congestion.

Regarding claim 39: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second encoder forms the second compressed image from a second region portion of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding; see [fig. 2] for using more than one encoder).

Regarding claim 40: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the portion and the second region portion are different regions within the same image area (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which provides for a number of configurations; see also Phillips [fig. 5, item 522], [fig. 7] for compositing signals; see also [132] for a plurality of image configurations).

Regarding claim 41: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the portion and the second region portion are different regions within different image areas (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which provides for a number of configurations; see also Phillips [fig. 5, item 522], [fig. 7] for compositing signals; see also [132] for a plurality of image configurations).

Regarding claim 42: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is logically or physically divided into segments (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which logically/physically divided into segments/macro blocks).

Regarding claim 43: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image is logically or physically divided into segments (see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding which logically/physically divided into segments/macro blocks).

Regarding claim 44: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image includes at least one frame (see Phillips [6] where frames are inherent to video; see 530 for first image).

Regarding claim 45: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image includes at least one frame (see Phillips [6] where frames are inherent to video; see 532 for second image).

Regarding claim 46: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the first encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the region portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the region portion of the frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 47: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the second encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion of the frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 48: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the first encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the region portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the region portion of a different frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 49: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and the second encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the second image within the second region portion of a different frame (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a

process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 50: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is a motion video image, and the second image is a still image, a motion video image, or a combination of both (see Gordon [fig. 5] where the first image can be a menu guide, a still image, and the second image is a video).

Regarding claim 51: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is a barker (see Gordon [col. 11, ll. 18-30] for a barker).

Regarding claim 52: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide (see Gordon [col. 11, ll. 18-30] for an IPG).

Regarding claim 53: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber (see Gordon [col. 4, ll. 13-23] for providing such integrated video for a VOD subscriber which reads on content on demand).

Regarding claim 54: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image (see Phillip [fig. 5, item 522] for a compositor which integrates images).

Regarding claim 56: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising forming a second compressed image, wherein the step of combining combines the second compressed image with the first compressed image (see Phillip [fig. 5, item 522] for a compositor which integrates images).

Regarding claim 57: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second compressed image is formed, restricted to a second portion of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion (see Phillips [fig. 5, item 532] for a second image], see also Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for teaching sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers).

Regarding claim 58: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the step of combining comprises selecting first portions of the first compressed image within the first portion, selecting second portions of the second compressed image within the second portion, and combining the selected first portions and second portions (see Phillips [fig. 7] for compositing; see also Gordon [fig. 7] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 60: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the encoder forms a second compressed image, and the combiner combines the second compressed image with the first compressed image (see Phillip [fig. 5, item 522] for a compositor which integrates images).

Regarding claim 61: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second compressed image is formed, from a second portion of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion (see Phillips [fig. 5, item 532] for a second image], see also Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for teaching sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers).

Regarding claim 62: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the combiner selects first portions of the first compressed image within the portion, selects second portions of the second compressed image within the second region portion, and combines the selected first portions and second portions (see Phillips [fig. 5, item 532] for a second image, see also Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for teaching sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers and then recombined).

Regarding claim 64: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising: at least a second encoder for receiving the second image and forming a second compressed image, wherein the combiner combines the first compressed image and the second compressed image (see Phillips [fig. 5, item 522] for a compositing device; see also Gordon [fig. 2] for a second encoder). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to modify server 510 by providing more than one encoder, as taught by Gordon, in order to allow each independent signal to have a dedicated encoder to increase the throughput and reduce system congestion..

Regarding claim 65: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the **second encoder** forms the second compressed image, from a second region portion of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion (see Phillips [6] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video; see Gordon [col. 3, ll. 19-25], [col. 7, ll. 9-31] for sliced based encoding; see also [fig. 2] for using multiple encoders).

Regarding claim 66: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the combiner selects first portions of the first compressed image within the portion selects second portions of the second compressed image within the region portion, and combines the selected first portions and second portions (see Phillips [fig. 5, item 522] for a compositor which integrates first and second image portions).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Thomas whose telephone number is (571) 270-5080. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on (571) 272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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